

## Lord, Increase My Faith

2-21-03-28

Luke 17:5-6

*The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 6 And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.*

Biblical faith: Believe God exists and is exactly who His Word reveals Him to be and that God can and will do what He promises He will do.

- Not great faith required as much as faith in a great God.
  - tiny mustard seed of faith leads to salvation.

different degrees "walking" faith. Romans 14:1, Matthew 15:28, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Corinthians 3:1, Luke 17:5

- Part of sanctification is increasing our faith for glory of God.
  - Faith increases as we know God better and know/believe His promises.

As we know a person better and see pattern that warrants trust in them to do what promise, and act in ways we can rely on...our faith/trust in them increases .....example.

- Christian faith increases as know God better - primarily through the Word.  
Romans 10:17

- Word is record of God fulfilling His promises/prophecies.

Increase faith with additional evidence God exists/rewards those who seek Him.

- Have past/present heroes of faith.
  - Hebrews 11, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Prince Paul,
    - Be around/pray with those you consider to have great faith.
- Remember God's past faithfulness to you so faith increases and ENDURES.
- Listen to/share personal testimonies of God working in/through people's lives.
  - Holy Spirit activity at LEFC....last week prayer/guide and sermon
- Act on tiny mustard seed faith...walk by faith. 2 Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 10:38
  - Listen/follow spiritual promptings.
    - Hebrews 11: ordinary people who exercised their faith until able to obey God without any idea what He planned for their lives.

Increase faith by know God better and knowing and believing His promises.

- Must know biblical promises or you will expect God do things He never promised to do and become frustrated with God. Proverbs 22:6, Genesis 22:16b-18, John 15:7
  - Don't confuse a principle with a promise.
    - Promises always fulfilled. Principles state general truths.
  - Don't apply specific promise made to someone else to yourself.
  - Discern if it's a conditional promise and whether you meet conditions.
    - might change its application in your life.
- Bible full of unambiguous promises that say more about who God is or how he is sanctifying us than specific circumstance/outcome. Romans 4:20-22

- Demonstrate true faith when believe God will fulfill his promises though not see those promises materializing yet.
  - unwavering trust in God's omnipotent and unfailing goodness.

Different degrees of faith in different areas of our lives at different periods of life.

- Faith is a gift from God. He works to begin/complete it but we have responsibility to pursue greater faith and walk in faith given to us. Luke 17:5, Mark 9:24b
  - Ask God to increase your faith by allowing you to know Him better and know and believe His promises more.

### **Prophecies Fulfilled:**

Triumphal entry on a donkey: Psalms 8:2; 118:25-26; Zechariah 9:9

Betrayal by friend: Psalms 41:9; 55:13; Zechariah 13:6

Falsely accused: Psalms 2:1-2; 27:12; 35:11; 109:2

Silence under accusation: Psalm 38:13; Isaiah 53:7

Suffering included thirst: Psalm 22:15

Pierce His hands and feet: Psalm 22:16

Cast lots for His clothing: Psalm 22:18

Mocking: Psalms 22:7-8, 16; 109:25

Jesus Resurrection: Psalms 2:7; 16:8-10; 30:3; 41:10; 118:17

### **God promises:**

To give us wisdom if we ask: James 1:5

To provide a way out of temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Our salvation is secure, no matter what: John 10:28–29

To never leave us nor forsake us: Hebrews 13:5

To finish the good work He has begun in us: Philippians 1:6

Come back again: Luke 12:40

New heavenly body: 2 Corinthians 5:1

Eternity with Him in heaven: 1 John 5:13

No death, mourning, crying, pain or sin in heaven: Revelation 22:4